United Nations A/AC.257/4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 March 2000

Original: English

Preparatory Committee for the High-level International Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development
Resumed organizational session
27-31 March 2000
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the provisional agenda for the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee

Organization of the coordinating secretariat

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of resolution 54/196 of 22 December 1999, requested the Secretary-General, in close consultation with all Member States, to provide the Preparatory Committee for the High-level International Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development and the high-level intergovernmental event with a secretariat commensurate with the level of the event and with adequate staff and other resources; invited the Secretary-General in that context to explore, in consultation with all relevant institutional stakeholders, the possibility of utilizing staff in that secretariat from those stakeholders, as appropriate; and requested the Secretary-General to make proposals in that regard to the Preparatory Committee at its resumed organizational session in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations. The present note to the Preparatory Committee supplements the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Consultations on the potential modalities of the participation of all relevant stakeholders in both the substantive preparatory process and the high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development" (A/AC.257/1).

2. In that report, the Secretary-General informed the Preparatory Committee that it was his intention to establish a self-standing central secretariat under the authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. This secretariat would act primarily as a coordinating body for the substantive work needed to support the Preparatory Committee and the final event, utilizing inputs from inter-secretariat issue-oriented working groups and regional and other arrangements that effectively engaged all concerned parties in the process. The overall support would

* A/AC.257/3/Rev.1.

00-35925 (E) 240300

thus involve not only staff and other resources provided to the central coordinating secretariat, but also inputs and support for the decentralized process (para. 3).

3. Subsequently, a coordinating secretariat within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat was established. Core staff have been assigned to the secretariat drawing on the subprogrammes under the programme "Economic and social affairs".

4. Discussions have been initiated on the secondment of staff from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations funds and programmes and the World Bank. Discussions with other multilateral institutions will also be taken up. In the case of staff from within the United Nations, the secondments will be carried out under the existing rules and procedures for staff. In the case of secondments from the World Bank and other bodies, staff costs will be borne by the parent organization.